

THE

GOBRECHT

JOURNAL



**For Collectors
of the
LIBERTY SEATED COIN SERIES
VOLUME TWENTY SIX ISSUE #78**

Coins are from my collection. Many have been stored in paper craft envelopes for over 50 years and are beautifully toned.

HALF DIMES

1837	No Stars, AU-55, amber toning . .	\$350
1840	No Drapery, MS-63, gold toning .	295
1843	MS-60, shattered reverse	255
1845	MS-60, nice luster	135
1850	MS-64, proof like fields	350
1857	MS-62, light toning	140
1860	MS-61, clashed dies	145
1860-O	MS-62, blue toning	165
1861	MS-60, flat strike	125
1862	MS-62, amber toning	155
1863	EF-42, blue gray	340
1863	PCGS MS-67, none better	3600
1864-S	AU-50, granular	375
1865	AU-50, recut date	550
1868	AU-58, blue & red toning	325
1869-S	MS-61, nice toning	265
1870	MS-62, bright white	140
1871	MS-62, amber toning	155
1872	MS-60, amber toning	125
1872-S	MS-63, golden toning	195

DIMES

1838-O	No Stars, EF-45, high rims	\$700
1856-S	VF-35, medium gray	525
1858-S	F-15, silver gray	180
1859-S	VF-30, silver gray	625
1862-S	AU-50, silver gray	575
1864	Fine	325
1867-S	EF-40, amber toning	195
1868	Proof-65, white	850
1870	Proof-64, white	750
1870	MS-63, white	325
1871-S	EF-40, blue gray	145
1872-S	EF-40, original	225
1875	MS-64	175
1876	Proof-63, white	330
1876-S	MS-62, gold toning	185
1877	Proof-63, white	600
1879	Proof-64, gold toning	800

DIMES

1880	VF-20, gray	\$235
1881	PCGS Proof-64, frosted	750
1882	MS-65, white	350
1883	MS-63, amber toning	205
1884	MS-63, white	205
1884-S	AU-55, amber toning	275
1885	Proof-63, amber toning	550
1886	SEGS MS-63	235
1886	MS-63, white	200
1887-S	MS-63, S/S	295
1888-S	MS-63, silver gray	235
1889	MS-64	210
1890	MS-64, white	275
1890-S	MS-60, large S/s	275
1891	MS-64, gold toning	235
1891-O	MS-60, dull gray	185
1891-S	MS-62, S/S, silver gray	300

QUARTERS

1856-S	VF-35, Large S/s	\$425
1856-S	F/VF, silver gray	170
1859-S	EF/AU, rare	1800
1859-S	VF-25, silver gray	375
1861	MS-61, white	255
1862-S	EF-40, silver gray	495
1864	EF-45, silver gray	300
1865	EF-45, silver gray	325
1866	Proof-63, gold toning	950
1867	Proof-63, white	1300
1867	MS-62, white	900
1869	Proof-65, frosted	1500
1870	Proof-65, white	1200
1877	MS-65, super	600
1878-CC	EF-40, silver white	110
1879	AU-50, halo toning	350
1882	Proof-62, silver white	550
1885	EF-45, silver gray	345
1889	EF/AU, silver gray	375
1891	MS-61, rainbow toning	185

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OUR PLEDGE

To encourage, promote and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

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A Rarity Analysis for Liberty Seated Quarters

by

Bob Foster



The large number of low mintage rare dates in the Seated quarter series make it one of the most challenging series of U.S. coins to collect. The true rarity for many of these dates is still not fully appreciated making it one of the most underpriced series in all of numismatics. The beauty of the design itself should be enough reason to collect Seated quarters, but the long term potential for price appreciation makes this series even more attractive to the knowledgeable collector. This article contains my opinions on the Seated quarter series based upon 25 years of collecting, investing and dealing in this series. It should be noted that my observations include information provided by a number of Seated quarter experts over a period of many years. These individuals include Kam Ahwash, Larry Briggs, Brian Greer, Jason Carter, Jim O'Donnell and Bob Hughes. In my opinion the Seated quarter series is much more difficult to complete than the Seated half dime, Seated dime, Seated half dollar or Seated dollar series. There are over 110 different dates and mints in the quarter set, not including several major varieties that are listed in the price guides. I believe that nearly half of these dates are underrated and underpriced according to the prices listed in Coin World Trends. I will attempt to tell you which pieces can be purchased at the current price levels with very little risk of loss for the collector.

My interest in Seated quarters began almost by accident nearly 25 years ago. I had just graduated from high school and I was getting bored with the Morgan dollars, Indian cents and Barber coins that I had been collecting for several years. Then, during the summer of 1975 I came across a Coin World ad that offered some Liberty Seated coins for sale. I went to my Red Book and began looking up some of the coins listed in this advertisement. Several of the quarters had very low mintages but seemed to be very reasonably priced. I started looking through auction

catalogues, retail price lists and old Coin World ads to obtain some retail prices for comparison. I couldn't find any! It was hard to make price comparisons when there were no coins for sale in the numismatic literature. I finally decided to call the dealer to order one of the Seated quarters that was listed in the Coin World ad. It was an 1860-S quarter in a VG grade for \$35. This dealer talked my ear off for almost 45 minutes! He told me about Seated quarters, how rare they were and how underpriced they were. We had a very friendly conversation and he told me about some of the rarities in the Seated quarter series. He indicated that the 1849-O, 1853 NA, 1860-S, 1864-S, 1866-S, 1867-S, 1870-CC, 1871-S and 1872-S quarters were very hard to find and very underpriced. He said that I should buy these dates whenever I could find them, even if they cost more than the Red Book prices. He also told me about the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, a club he said was dedicated exclusively to studying coins in the Liberty Seated series. I had always loved the Seated design but I had never considered buying coins in this series until that telephone conversation in 1975. The dealer who placed that ad in Coin World twenty five years ago and the individual who first told me about the rarity of Seated quarters was Kam Ahwash!

I purchased the 1860-S quarter in VG from the Coin World ad and this coin started my collection of Seated quarters. Kam and I became friends and we talked on the telephone quite a bit over the next several years. I bought several more coins from Kam and I started going to coin shows and auctions. I met Kam at a Steve Ivy auction in Dallas in the late 1970s. It was interesting just watching him bid on coins. I learned a lot about Seated quarters from Kam and I soon became obsessed with the series. At this point I felt that I had to complete my quarter set. I joined LSCC and began receiving the Gobrecht Journal. What a great deal! Good articles, advertisements for rare Seated coins, pictures of Seated varieties, reasonable advertising rates and even a question and answer column for the collector. I purchased a lot of Seated quarters through journal ads and even began hoarding those rare dates that Kam had told me about.

In 1979 I met Kam in Dallas at a coin show and he showed me the finest known 1871-S and 1872-S quarters. They were both nearly perfect blazing white gorgeous mint state coins. He gave me the first opportunity to buy the two coins. The 1871-S quarter was \$3000 and the 1872-S quarter was \$3500. This was a lot of money for me at that time so I had to pass. Back then the 1871-S quarter was considered to be nearly as rare as the 1872-S quarter. Both coins would have graded at least MS-65 or better by today's standards. This was my first major blown opportunity to obtain some choice Seated rarities. Kam died a few years later but I will never forget him for his efforts to introduce me to the Seated quarter series and I am thankful for the information that he shared with me.

In 1991 I bought a copy of the Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters by Larry Briggs. After 16 years of collecting Seated quarters I finally had a reference book that was full of facts and figures about each of the dates in the series. There were hundreds of pictures of actual coins plus close up pictures of many varieties that had never before been listed. I have used this book so many times that most of the pages are tattered and worn from overuse. If you have even a casual interest in Seated quarters you will want to buy a copy of this book.

A few months ago, club President John McCloskey asked me to prepare a rarity analysis for the Seated quarter series. Dick Osburn's rarity analysis on the Seated half dollar series and Gerry Fortin's rarity analysis on the Seated dime series have already

been published in the journal. I expect that my rarity analysis on the Seated quarter series will have some of the same features but I have decided to add a few new tables of my own. I have used the same Rarity Groups A through J that were used by the other authors to maintain some consistency across denominations. My comments on each of the rarity groups are based upon my 25 years of experience with the Seated quarter series. The rarity groups were established for circulated coins of each date since most Seated quarter collectors are trying to build a matched set of circulated coins. Very few collectors would even consider building a set in uncirculated condition because many dates in the series are extremely rare in mint state and seldom available in these grades. A tabulation of the information for each date in the series by rarity group is given in Tables 1.1 to 1.10.

Table 1.1
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group A

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1842	Small Date	NA	A	-	-	-	-
1873-CC	No Arrows	4,000	A	-	-	-	-

Comments: Only two coins could possibly fit into this rarest category. Both of these dates are extremely rare with only 5 or 6 pieces known for each date. Examples of these issues are usually available only when major collections are sold. The 1842 Small Date quarter in the 1997 Eliasberg Sale was graded Proof-63/64 and sold for only \$66,000. I believe that this was a true bargain when you consider that a 1913 Liberty nickel in the Eliasberg collection sold for nearly \$1.5 million. The 1873-CC No Arrows quarter in the 1997 Eliasberg Sale was graded MS-62/65 and sold for \$187,000. This price seems to be in line with the rarity of this variety. The unique 1866 No Motto quarter was recently recovered after being stolen on a robbery at the duPont family home in 1967. This piece is considered to be a pattern and is therefore not listed as a variety in the regular quarter series.

Table 1.2
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group B

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1840-O	WD Large O	NA	B	\$300	\$1,100	-	-
1870-CC	-	8,340	B	1,850	10,500	\$19,500	\$37,500
1871-CC	-	10,890	B	1,150	8,000	13,500	27,500
1873-CC	With Arrows	12,462	B	1,300	8,500	14,000	-

Comments: The 1840-O With Drapery Large O quarter is probably the rarest of the dates in this group with only about 22 pieces known in all grades. However, it will never be priced as high as the other dates in this group because it is a die variety and not needed to complete a set by date and mint. Nevertheless, I believe that it is still underpriced in all grades and it is certainly an interesting early variety in the Seated quarter series. The 1870-CC quarter has always been my favorite coin in the series.

It took me five years of searching before I was able to purchase my first example of this rare date. The 1870-CC quarter is seldom available in any grade and it always sells for more than its Trends prices. The 1871-CC and 1873-CC With Arrows quarters have recently become as hard to locate as the 1870-CC quarter. All three of these Carson City quarters are in extremely high demand and should be purchased in Good through Fine grades at anywhere near Trends prices. The 1997 Eliasberg Sale had the finest known examples of all three of these rare dates. They were all unbelievable coins. The 1870-CC quarter was graded MS-64 prooflike and brought \$187,000. The 1871-CC quarter was graded MS-65 prooflike and brought \$165,000. The 1873-CC With Arrows quarter was graded MS-63/65 prooflike and brought \$88,000.

Table 1.3
 Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group C

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1853	No Arrows	44,200	C	\$195	\$600	\$950	\$1,875
1872 -S	-	83,000	C	450	2,000	3,850	5,500

Comments: Both of these dates are very rare in all grades. I believe that they are grossly underpriced in Good condition in Trends. I would pay nearly double the current Trends prices for pieces in grades from Good to VG. The 1872-S quarter is rare in all grades but its retail price has gone up considerably in recent years. In higher grades the 1872-S quarter is not the underpriced bargain that it once was. It is still rare in the higher grades but priced accordingly. The 1853 No Arrows quarter is difficult to find and it is underpriced in grades from Good to XF. There are however some nice mint state examples of this date. The 1853 No Arrows quarter is not nearly as rare as the 1872-S quarter in uncirculated condition.



Mint State 1872-S Quarter from the Norweb Collection

Table 1.4
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group D

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1842-O	Small Date	157,000	D	\$400	\$2,000	\$4,750	\$7,500
1849-O	-	16,000	D	385	1,600	3,100	5,750
1871-S	-	30,900	D	285	625	1,000	1,500
1872-CC	-	22,850	D	450	2,250	4,150	9,500
1886	-	5,886	D	190	325	450	700

Comments: The hardest date to find in this group in a circulated grade from Good to XF is probably the 1886 quarter. A true circulated 1886 business strike quarter is unbelievably hard to locate. However the price on these coins will always be kept down because proof examples of this date are always available. The next rarest date in this group would probably be the 1849-O quarter. It has always been difficult to obtain. I believe that the 1871-S quarter is a real sleeper in this group. Just try to find an example of this date, in any grade. It is certainly underpriced in Trends. The 1872-CC quarter has become harder to find in recent years. Five years ago this date was much more available. It is slightly underpriced in all grades in Trends. The 1872-CC quarter from the 1997 Eliasberg Sale was graded MS-66 and brought \$99,000. The 1842-O Small Date quarter is rare in low grades but it becomes very difficult to obtain in VF or better condition.

Table 1.5
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group E

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1854-O	Huge O	NA	E	\$90	\$350	\$750	-
1864-S	-	20,000	E	290	1,050	1,850	\$3,500
1866	-	17,525	E	300	650	900	1,250
1873	NA Closed 3	40,600	E	160	460	610	1,125
1884	-	8,875	E	175	320	350	370

The 1854-O Huge O quarter is my favorite coin in this group. It is very underpriced in all grades in Trends. This interesting variety was available several years ago but it is currently very difficult to obtain. The 1864-S quarter is next in rarity in this group. Just try to find a full Good example of this date for \$290. It is sometimes available in grades from Good to VF but XF or better examples are almost never available. The other three dates in this group are all Philadelphia issues that reach this rarity level only for circulated business strike specimens. The 1866 quarter is the scarcest of the three dates, followed by the 1873 No Arrows Closed 3 quarter and the 1884 quarter.

Table 1.6
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group F

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1843-O	Large O	NA	F	\$75	\$400	\$800	-
1860-S	-	56,000	F	170	900	4,250	\$10,000
1866-S	-	28,000	F	195	800	1,350	1,900
1867	-	20,625	F	155	325	450	600
1867-S	-	48,000	F	155	490	725	1,750
1869	-	16,600	F	240	485	675	950
1887	-	10,710	F	160	285	345	375

Comments: I believe that the 1843-O Large O quarter is a real sleeper in all grades. Its Trends prices seem awfully low for a coin that is this hard to obtain. The 1860-S quarter is the next hardest date to locate in this group. This date is available in grades from Good to VG and it is occasionally found in grades from Fine to VF, but anything higher than VF is nearly impossible to obtain. Only a handful of 1860-S quarters are known in grades from XF to AU and this date is still unknown in mint state. The 1866-S and 1867-S quarters are about equal in rarity but the 1866-S quarter always sells for more. I believe that the 1867-S quarter is a better buy at the current price levels but both of these dates are very rare in uncirculated condition. Civil War era quarters from the San Francisco mint have a lower survival rate than many other issues in the series because they received heavy circulation in the old west. The 1867 and 1869 quarters are scarce in circulated grades from Good to XF but their availability in proof condition keeps prices down on these coins. The 1887 business strike quarter is also very scarce in circulated grades from Good to XF.



**Mint State 1866-S Quarter from
the Lindesmith Collection**

Table 1.7
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group G

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1842	Large Date	88,000	G	\$70	\$250	\$375	\$875
1851-O	-	88,000	G	150	625	1,400	2,650
1852-O	-	96,000	G	175	725	1,400	3,500
1859-S	-	80,000	G	85	375	1,250	3,100
1868	-	30,000	G	87	260	330	415
1878-S	-	140,000	G	75	265	435	750
1879	-	14,700	G	140	250	320	350
1880	-	14,955	G	140	250	330	355
1881	-	12,950	G	145	265	315	350
1882	-	16,300	G	150	265	330	365
1883	-	15,439	G	145	265	325	360
1885	-	14,530	G	145	260	330	355
1888	-	10,833	G	160	285	345	375
1889	-	12,711	G	145	280	350	385
1891-O	-	68,000	G	135	475	775	1,550

Comments: I believe that the 1842 Large Date, 1859-S and 1878-S quarters are the best buys in this group at the current prices. These dates are all very scarce yet reasonably priced in grades from Good to XF. I think that an 1859-S quarter in XF is well worth \$1250 considering the fact that this date is nearly unknown in uncirculated condition. The 1878-S quarter is definitely a bargain at \$75 in Good condition, if you can find one. Circulated examples of the 1842 Large Date quarter used to be available, but not anymore. The 1851-O and 1852-O quarters seem to be priced about right for their rarity. The 1891-O quarter is scarce but available in low grades but it is surprisingly difficult to obtain XF or better coins of this date. The remaining Philadelphia issues in the group are all very scarce as circulated business strikes in grades from Good to XF. All of the Philadelphia quarters from 1879 to 1889 have very low mintages but they also have a much higher survival rate than many of the earlier issues in the series.



Table 1.8
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group H

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1841	-	120,000	H	\$44	\$140	\$255	\$435
1848	-	146,000	H	25	140	210	400
1850	-	190,800	H	22	82	165	330
1851	-	160,000	H	32	125	190	315
1852	-	177,060	H	31	135	200	360
1855-O	-	176,000	H	32	250	550	1,200
1855-S	-	396,400	H	30	140	425	1,000
1856-S	S over s	NA	H	42	275	775	1,600
1856-S	-	286,000	H	35	185	435	1,025
1857-S	-	82,000	H	60	325	505	1,150
1858-S	-	121,000	H	50	250	625	1,900
1861-S	-	96,000	H	55	350	800	3,250
1862-S	-	67,000	H	50	250	490	975
1864	-	94,070	H	47	160	235	430
1865	-	59,300	H	55	200	290	365
1865-S	-	41,000	H	70	300	475	1,200
1868-S	-	96,000	H	55	215	590	1,300
1869-S	-	76,000	H	70	265	525	1,350
1870	-	87,400	H	47	145	235	350
1871	-	119,160	H	32	87	155	300
1872	-	182,950	H	30	82	145	260
1873	NA Open 3	172,000	H	30	95	175	275
1875-CC	-	140,000	H	50	250	410	660
1890	-	80,590	H	50	110	155	200

Comments: This group contains a lot of sleepers and many of them are not nearly as common as you might think. The 1848, 1851, 1852, 1871, 1872 and 1873 No Arrows Open 3 quarters are all underpriced in Good condition at around \$30. The 1856-S/s quarter is underpriced in Good condition at \$42. The 1857-S quarter is underpriced in Good condition at \$60. The 1841, 1850, 1858-S, 1861-S, 1862-S, 1864, 1865, 1868-S, 1869-S, 1870, 1875-CC and 1890 quarters are all very reasonably priced in all grades. The 1855-O and 1855-S quarters are scarce and fairly priced in low grades but they are overrated in grades from VF to AU.

Table 1.9
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group I

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1838	-	466,000	I	\$14	\$80	\$265	\$525
1839	-	491,146	I	14	75	250	500
1840-O	No Drapery	382,200	I	16	110	325	575
1840	-	188,127	I	19	80	180	340
1840-O	With Drapery	43,000	I	23	125	250	525
1841-O	-	452,000	I	18	70	150	310
1842-O	Large Date	612,000	I	16	70	175	585
1843	-	645,600	I	14	35	62	190
1843-O	-	968,000	I	18	100	235	800
1844	-	421,200	I	13	35	65	185
1844-O	-	740,000	I	16	60	145	350
1845	-	922,000	I	13	35	75	200
1846	-	510,000	I	14	35	67	190
1847	-	734,000	I	13	32	65	185
1847-O	-	368,000	I	19	97	315	685
1849	-	340,000	I	18	67	135	300
1850-O	-	396,000	I	18	85	200	490
1853/4	-	NA	I	35	200	450	800
1853-O	-	1,332,000	I	15	57	200	1,275
1854-O	-	1,484,000	I	13	50	115	305
1856-O	-	968,000	I	14	45	100	425
1857-O	-	1,180,000	I	13	45	75	285
1858-O	-	520,000	I	17	52	115	445
1859-O	-	260,000	I	17	52	110	375
1860	-	805,400	I	13	29	62	135
1860-O	-	388,000	I	16	47	90	325
1863	-	192,060	I	28	72	170	285
1873-S	-	156,000	I	25	160	300	575
1874	-	471,900	I	17	60	185	390
1874-S	-	392,000	I	20	130	275	500
1875-S	-	680,000	I	39	110	150	285
1877-S	over horizontal s	NA	I	25	175	225	275
1878-CC	-	996,000	I	18	60	105	210

Comments: This group contains many of the more common dates in the series. These dates are all fairly common and rate at about the same in the lower grades. I have found that the 1840, 1843-O, 1847-O, 1850-O, 1853-O, 1858-O, 1859-O, 1873-S and 1875-S quarters are harder to find and underrated in the higher circulated grades. All New Orleans mint quarters beginning with the 1842-O are rare in uncirculated condition. The 1847-O and 1853-O quarters are extremely rare in uncirculated condition. The other dates in this group are readily available in all grades up to AU but most of the dates in the 1840s are not common in mint state.

Table 1.10
Analysis of Seated Quarters by Date - Rarity Group J

Date	Variety	Mintage	Rarity Factor	Good	Coin World Trends		
					VF-20	XF-40	AU-50
1853	Arrows & Rays	15,254,205	J	\$12	\$37	\$130	\$300
1854	-	12,380,000	J	13	29	75	235
1855	-	2,857,000	J	12	28	70	235
1856	-	7,264,000	J	13	27	50	130
1857	-	9,644,000	J	13	27	50	120
1858	-	7,368,000	J	13	27	50	120
1859	-	1,344,000	J	13	29	65	145
1861	-	4,854,600	J	13	28	55	120
1862	-	932,550	J	14	31	57	140
1873	With Arrows	1,271,700	J	14	55	185	375
1875	-	4,293,500	J	13	27	50	110
1876	-	17,817,150	J	13	27	50	110
1876-CC	-	4,944,000	J	13	31	55	145
1876-S	-	8,596,000	J	13	27	52	130
1877	-	10,911,710	J	13	27	50	110
1877-CC	-	4,192,000	J	13	32	60	140
1877-S	-	8,996,000	J	13	28	51	110
1888-S	-	1,216,000	J	13	28	51	140
1891	-	3,920,600	J	13	27	50	110
1891-S	-	2,216,000	J	13	32	52	145

Comments: This is the most common group of Seated quarters. All of these dates are readily available in all grades including mint state. The most common of these dates would be the 1853 With Arrows quarter. I see multiple examples of this date at many tables during a coin show. Retail ads for Seated quarters often list this date for sale in multiple grades. The only reason for its higher price in the upper grades is its status as a one year type coin. The 1853 With Arrows quarter would have to be the most overpriced date in the Seated quarter series in terms of availability. The 1876, 1877, 1877-S and 1876-S quarters would also have to rate among the most common dates in the series.

Table 2 contains my list of the 20 most underrated and underpriced dates in the Seated quarter series. I feel that in the grades listed, these dates have the best long term potential for price appreciation. Just try to find any of these dates in the listed grades. They are all but impossible to find in these grades and represent coins that should be purchased at the current Trends prices when available. This list of the top 20 most underrated dates is based upon the Trends prices as of May 15, 2000.

The rarity groups were developed to identify the availability of Seated quarters in nice circulated grades. Many of the dates are extremely rare in uncirculated condition and few collectors would even consider building a set of Seated quarters in mint state. Some of the dates are in fact nearly impossible to obtain in mint state grades. My list

Table 2
Foster Top 20 Most Underrated Dates

Rank	Date	Variety	Grades
1.	1853	No Arrows	Good to VF
2.	1886		Good to VF
3.	1854-O	Huge O	Good to XF
4.	1871-CC		Good to Fine
5.	1870-CC		Good to VG
6.	1873-CC	With Arrows	Good to Fine
7.	1871-S		Good to VF
8.	1872-S		Good to Fine
9.	1843-O	Large O	Good to XF
10.	1840-O	With Drapery Large O	Good to VF
11.	1872-CC		Good to VG
12.	1887		Good to VF
13.	1884		Good to Fine
14.	1867-S		Good to VG
15.	1864-S		Good to Fine
16.	1852		Good to Fine
17.	1851		Good to Fine
18.	1878-S		Good
19.	1860-S		Good to Fine
20.	1875-CC		Good

of the top 20 rarest dates in uncirculated condition is given in Table 3. There are fewer than five known mint state coins for each of these dates. Three dates are still not known to exist in mint state. I conferred with Larry Briggs before finalizing this list of rare mint state quarters. The dates have been ranked by rarity from 1 to 20. When two dates have the same number of known specimens in mint state, the higher ranking was given to that date with fewer known examples in grades approaching mint state. When the number of known mint state coins is listed as 4-5, it means that there are four confirmed specimens in mint state and another coin that has been listed as uncirculated but which cannot be confirmed as meeting the current grading standards for mint state.

The Liberty Seated quarter series is filled with underrated dates that have the potential for a significant increase in prices in the coming years. Many of these dates are very difficult to obtain in even well circulated grades, making this series harder to complete than any of the other Seated series. There are 45 dates in the series with a mintage below 100,000 coins and only 22 dates in the series with a mintage over 1 million. The Seated quarter series is a challenging and rewarding series to collect with many rare dates that can only be obtained through an extensive search by the collector or investor.

I want to thank Q. David Bowers for providing the pictures of the 1866-S quarter from the Lindesmith Collection and the 1872-S quarter from the Norweb Collection.

Table 3
Foster Top 20 Rarest Dates in Uncirculated Condition

Rank	Date	Variety	Number Known
1.	1860-S		0
2.	1861-S		0
3.	1856-S/s		0
4.	1870-CC		1
5.	1859-S		1
6.	1858-S		1
7.	1854-O	Huge O	1
8.	1842-O	Small Date	1
9.	1843-O	Large O	1
10.	1872-CC		2
11.	1849-O		2
12.	1840-O	With Drapery, Large O	2
13.	1867-S		2-3
14.	1852-O		2-3
15.	1873-CC	No Arrows	3
16.	1871-CC		3-4
17.	1872-S		3-4
18.	1847-O		3-4
19.	1864-S		4-5
20.	1873-CC	With Arrows	4-5

References

1. The Gobrecht Journal, Issues #1 to #77
2. The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters by Larry Briggs, 1991
3. The PCGS Population Report, April 2000
4. Coin World Trends, May 15, 2000
5. The Louis Eliasberg Auction Catalogue, April 1997, Auctions by Bowers and Merena Inc.
6. Kam Ahwash Fixed Price Lists, 1975 to 1980
7. Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins, 1988
8. The Norweb Collection Auction Catalogue, March 1988, Auctions by Bowers and Merena Inc.
9. Kagin's Auction Catalogue for the Sale of the Kamal M. Ahwash Collection, February 1984
10. Brian Greer Fixed Price Lists, 1995 to 2000

BETTER DATES #47

I'm back with a large inventory of better date coins in various grades. This list is only a small sample of what I have for sale. Call or write with your needs. Most coins available for computer scan if picture is desired before purchase.

HALF DIMES

1856	VF-XF, cleaned, full denticles ..	\$49
1863	VG, rim damage, slight bend ..	105
1864-S	VG+, choice original	52
1864-S	VF, weak I on ribbon	110
1869	Choice AU, lustrous	120
1871	Choice AU, very lustrous	75

DIMES

1847	XF, nice	\$100
1850-O	VF, Medium O	70
1860	Unc, some hairlines	210
1860-S	XF, cleaned, nice	210
1861	XF, Type I obverse	35
1862-S	VF, light rim scrape	125
1863-S	VG-F, nice	35
1866-S	XF, gentle cleaning	195
1867-S	Ch. Fine, a few marks	70
1870	XF-AU, sharp	65
1872-S	Fine, nice	65
1876-S	Unc, bright white	165
1878	XF, tiny rim tick	24
1878-CC	F-VF, deep album toning	100
1879	Fine/Good, cleaned, obv digs ..	165

QUARTERS

1838	Ch. VF, a few stray marks	\$70
1840	VF-XF, cleaned, sharp	90
1846	VF, doubled date, sharp	70
1847	XF, doubled die reverse	115
1849	F-VF, old cleaning	38
1849-O	G-VG, severe rim damage	295
1851	Good, obverse stain	45
1851-O	VG, old obverse scratches	160
1852	VG, old obverse scratch	55
1852-O	VG-F, a few old marks	220
1852-O	Fine, a few hairlines	375
1856-S	VF, cleaned, sharp	175
1860-S	F-VF, old obverse repair	175
1863	XF-AU, old cleaning, sharp	160
1866-S	F-VF, a few marks	215
1868	F-VF, old cleaning	235
1871-S	Fine, old cleaning	475
1881	F-VF, mottled gray toning	225

HALF DOLLARS

1839	ND, AU, obverse scratches ...	\$140
1842	Small Date, XF-AU, sharp	160
1842-O	Medium Date, Ch. VF	75
1845	AU, cleaned, sharp	165
1845-O	VG+, WB-104, nice	110
1847	XF, cleaned	68
1848	VG+, light gray	60
1849	VG+, repunched 1	38
1851-O	XF, cleaned	175
1864	Ch. VF, nice toning	80
1865	XF-AU, cleaned	150
1866-S	No Motto, Good	58
1871-CC	G-VG, cleaned, rough surfaces ..	70
1873-S	XF, old cleaning, sharp	325
1874-CC	Fine, WB-102, old cleaning ...	625
1874-S	F-VF, weak LIBERTY	75
1876-CC	XF, die bar in drapery	140
1880	VG+, old light cleaning	210
1883	Fine, solder damage, marks ...	140
1884	VF-XF, old cleaning	390
1885	VF-XF, old cleaning	335
1887	Proof, light marks	725
1888	VG-F, deeply toned	220
1889	VF, heavily cleaned	220

SEATED DOLLARS

1848	VG, light gray	\$300
1859	VF, cleaned, obverse marks ...	320
1860	Good, full rims	145
1862	Good+, a few stray marks	475
1866	VG, a few obverse scuffs	165
1867	VG+, old cleaning	210
1868	Fine, some scattered marks ...	215
1870-CC	F-VF, old cleaning, sharp	425
1872-CC	Good, field repairs	650

TRADE DOLLARS

1873-CC	Ch. VF, tiny rim repair	\$225
1874	XF-AU, old cleaning	175
1874-CC	XF, cleaned	195
1875	VF, cleaned, a few marks	340
1880	Ch. AU, sharp	940

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1870-CC QUARTER SURVEY



I am attempting to identify as many 1870-CC quarters as possible. If you would like your coins listed in this study, please contact me with the following information:

- * Provide a description of the coin in as much detail as possible, especially listing distinguishing features of the piece.
- * Give certification ID for slabbed coins.
- * List pedigree information when known.

Any circulated coin will have field marks that distinguish it from other specimens of the same date. The VF coin above has several marks that are unique to this specimen. There are two small nicks in the obverse field to the right of the 1st star. On the reverse there is a small defect to the right of the E in the motto, a nick in the field just above the upper left corner of the shield and a circular defect in the field between the wing and the second A in AMERICA.

More specific documentation can be given for high grade certified coins. A high grade coin that has recently appeared at auction can be described as follows: Obverse has medium to dark blue-gray patina, while the reverse is lighter in hue with pearl-gray and gunmetal color. There are two light, parallel scratches between the 9th and 10th stars on the obverse. The coin grades NGC AU-53 with certification ID 269573-005. This coin appeared in the 1999 ANA Sale by Heritage in August 1999 as Lot #6278 and in the Pre-Long Beach Sale by Superior in June 2000 as Lot #1423.

All ownership information will be kept confidential. The results of this survey will be published in a future issue of the journal.

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The Amazing Kaufman Collection of Liberty Seated Proof Coins

by

David W. Lange

One of the highlights of the ANA Convention in Philadelphia this summer is expected to be a display of the Phil Kaufman Collection of Liberty Seated proof coins. This collection is nearly complete and consists of 233 proof coins of the Liberty Seated design. This fabulous collection is being displayed at the ANA Convention this summer courtesy of its owner and the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation. With but a few exceptions, the collection includes proof examples of every date for each denomination of Seated coinage from the half dime to the silver dollar. The collection is of almost uniformly high quality with many of its coins being the finest known or the finest certified. A few dates are believed to be unique in proof condition.

Phil Kaufman established his goal to own a proof coin from the Philadelphia Mint for every date and denomination of the Liberty Seated type for which proof examples are known. He has already come very close to achieving this goal although there are some inevitable gaps in the sequence because the Mint did not strike proof coins for all dates prior to 1854. The set has been formed over a period of many years and it includes many pieces that have been pedigreed to important collections. Mr. Kaufman was a major purchaser of proof coinage at the Bowers & Merena auction of the Eliasberg Collection and at the David W. Akers auction of the Pittman Collection. The Pittman sale specifically provided Kaufman with the opportunity to purchase gem examples of the rare proof coins from 1843 to 1846.



**1842 Small Date Proof Quarter from Kaufman Collection
in NGC PF-64 Condition**

Mr. Kaufman also obtained some of his rarities from the Floyd T. Starr Collection sold by Stack's in 1992, from the Garrett Family/Johns Hopkins University Collection sold by Bowers & Ruddy in 1979-81 and from the Allen F. Lovejoy Collection sold by Stack's in 1990. A number of the Kaufman proofs were once owned by the late Norman Stack whose personal type collection was illustrated in his book "United States Type Coins: An Illustrated History of the Federal Coinage.

As Director of Research for NGC, I had the pleasure of attributing this wonderful set of coins and the opportunity to write PHOTO PROOF presentations for many of them. Although I had seen a few of the coins previously, it was a breathtaking experience to examine them all together. Proof issues like the half dollars of 1839 are so rare that the opportunity to study them is a special privilege and a memorable experience.

For the most part, I found Walter Breen's observations on proof coinage in his two encyclopedias to be quite accurate. However, I believe that no proof coins exist for most denominations of 1851 coinage even though Breen reported that each denomination was at least suspected to exist in proof condition. Breen also reported one proof coin for the 1841 With Drapery dime. This specimen is the Pittman coin that was catalogued as a business strike by David W. Akers in the Pittman sale.

I weighed the proof examples of the 1852 half dime, dime and half dollar at Mr. Kaufman's request. Their weights confirmed that all of these pieces were coined to the pre-1853 standard and were therefore originals. Weight measurements confirmed that the proof 1851 and 1852 silver dollars in the collection were restrikes. It was also confirmed that the 1853 dollar was a restrike since no original proof specimens were struck for this date.

There is a tendency for the collector to cut corners on the condition of some coins when attempting to assemble a large and expensive collection. I was delighted to find that Mr. Kaufman took no such shortcuts when I examined this beautiful set of proof coinage. I found an amazingly high quality for these coins throughout the set, including some of the rarest issues. When NGC first certified the Kaufman proof coins three years ago, some of the early dates were either missing or of average quality. Since that time Mr. Kaufman has spared no effort or expense to upgrade and complete his collection through the purchase of some great rarities from the Pittman Collection. It is unlikely that this specialized collection of Liberty Seated proof coins will ever be equaled in overall quality and completeness. I hope that many club members will have the opportunity to see this collection at the ANA Convention in Philadelphia this summer when these beautiful coins will be returned to their city of origin.

The following table provides a complete listing of the proof Liberty Seated coins in the Kaufman collection. The date, NGC grade and NGC certified population statistics are given for each coin. The notation 2/0/11 for the 1837 proof half dime indicates that there were 2 coins graded at the PF-67 grade level, none graded at a higher level and a total of 11 proof coins graded for this date. The CAMEO designation is applied by NGC to proof coins whose frosted devices show a marked contrast with their brilliant fields, thus enhancing their aesthetic value. The population statistics for these coins include information on only the CAMEO proof coins for this date. The grading statistics were taken from the April 2000 edition of the NGC Census Report.

The Kaufman Collection
Liberty Seated Proof Half Dimes

Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population	Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population
1837	PF-67	2/ 0/ 11	1856	PF-66	3/ 0/ 4
1838	PF-65	1/ 0/ 1	1857	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1
1839	PF-64	3/ 0/ 3	1858	PF-67	2/ 0/ 65
1840 ND	PF-66	2/ 1/ 5	1859	PF-67	6/ 1/ 168
1841	PF-65	2/ 0/ 4	1860	PF-67	4/ 0/ 69
1842	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1861	PF-66	2/ 1/ 45
1843/1843	PF-67	1/ 0/ 1	1862	PF-67	5/ 0/ 111
1844	PF-67	1/ 0/ 5	1863	PF-67	5/ 0/ 120
1845	PF-68	1/ 0/ 7	1864	PF-67	3/ 0/ 86
1846	PF-67	1/ 0/ 5	1865	PF-66	7/ 3/ 102
1847	PF-66	1/ 0/ 2	1866	PF-68	1/ 0/ 98
1848	PF-66 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1867	PF-66	20/ 1/ 137
1849	PF-66	1/ 0/ 2	1868	PF-67	4/ 0/ 96
1850	PF-65	1/ 0/ 1	1869	PF-67	7/ 0/ 133
1852	PF-64	1/ 2/ 4	1870	PF-68	3/ 0/ 111
1854	PF-65	5/ 0/ 9	1871	PF-67	4/ 1/ 104
1855	PF-66	6/ 0/ 10	1872	PF-67	3/ 2/ 110
			1873	PF-67	9/ 0/ 150

Pedigree: Coins from the Pittman Collection: 1837, 1841, 1842, 1844, 1845, 1850.
 Coins from the Eliasberg Collection: 1838, 1848, 1849. Coins from the Norman Stack
 Type Collection: 1840 No Drapery.



1843/1843 Proof Half Dime from Kaufman Collection
in NGC PF-67 Condition

The Kaufman Collection
Liberty Seated Proof Dimes

Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population	Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population
1837	PF-66	3/ 1/ 14	1866	PF-67	6/ 0/ 100
1838	PF-67	2/ 0/ 2	1867	PF-66	5/ 0/ 73
1839	PF-66	1/ 0/ 1	1868	PF-66	6/ 2/ 95
1840 ND	PF-65	1/ 1/ 3	1869	PF-67	5/ 0/ 121
1842	PF-65	2/ 0/ 5	1870	PF-66	10/ 0/ 95
1843	PF-66	3/ 0/ 9	1871	PF-66	13/ 2/ 87
1844	PF-66	1/ 0/ 2	1872	PF-67 CAMEO	2/ 0/ 3
1845	PF-66	1/ 1/ 3	1873 NA	PF-68	2/ 0/ 109
1846	PF-65	2/ 0/ 7	1873 WA	PF-66	11/ 2/ 74
1847	PF-66	1/ 0/ 1	1874	PF-67	2/ 0/ 124
1848	PF-66	3/ 0/ 10	1875	PF-66 CAMEO	2/ 1/ 5
1849	PF-66	1/ 0/ 2	1876	PF-66	6/ 3/ 95
1850	PF-67	1/ 0/ 2	1877	PF-68	1/ 0/ 83
1852	PF-66	1/ 0/ 4	1878	PF-66	6/ 3/ 98
1853 WA	PF-66	2/ 0/ 5	1879	PF-67	6/ 1/ 168
1854	PF-66	2/ 0/ 10	1880	PF-68	3/ 0/ 197
1855	PF-66	2/ 0/ 10	1881	PF-67	17/ 1/ 151
1856	PF-67	1/ 0/ 14	1882	PF-68 CAMEO	2/ 0/ 6
1857	PF-67	2/ 0/ 31	1883	PF-66	31/16/196
1858	PF-64 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1884	PF-68	3/ 0/ 186
1859	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 3	1885	PF-68	3/ 0/ 163
1860	PF-67	10/ 2/100	1886	PF-67	15/ 0/ 189
1861	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1887	PF-67 CAMEO	2/ 0/ 3
1862	PF-65	10/ 1/ 64	1888	PF-66	16/ 4/ 129
1863	PF-68	3/ 0/ 86	1889	PF-68	3/ 0/ 116
1864	PF-66	11/ 2/ 90	1890	PF-68	2/ 0/ 134
1865	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1891	PF-67	17/ 2/ 150

Pedigree: Coins from the Pittman Collection: 1844, 1845, 1846, 1848. Coins from the Lovejoy Collection: 1839, 1842, 1850. Coins from the Eliasberg Collection: 1847, 1852. Coins from the Norman Stack Type Collection: 1840 No Drapery, 1853 With Arrows.

The Kaufman Collection
Liberty Seated Proof Twenty Cent Pieces

Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population	Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population
1875	PF-66 CAMEO	2/ 0/ 5	1877	PF-66	17/ 2/ 143
1876	PF-67	3/ 2/ 159	1878	PF-66	15/ 0/ 176

The Kaufman Collection
Liberty Seated Proof Quarters

Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population	Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population
1839	PF-65	1/ 0/ 1	1867	PF-67	5/ 0/ 89
1840 WD	PF-64	2/ 0/ 2	1868	PF-66	8/ 0/ 92
1841	PF-66	1/ 0/ 1	1869	PF-67	2/ 0/ 100
1842 SD	PF-64	1/ 0/ 1	1870	PF-66	8/ 2/ 94
1843	PF-66	1/ 0/ 6	1871	PF-67	2/ 1/ 72
1844	PF-66	1/ 0/ 1	1872	PF-68	2/ 0/ 116
1845	PF-66	1/ 0/ 3	1873 NA	PF-68	2/ 0/ 111
1846	PF-65	4/ 0/ 10	1873 WA	PF-66	7/ 2/ 96
1847	PF-66	3/ 0/ 5	1874	PF-67	6/ 0/ 167
1848	PF-66	2/ 0/ 4	1875	PF-66	9/ 5/ 100
1849	PF-65	1/ 0/ 4	1876	PF-68	2/ 0/ 138
1850	PF-68	1/ 0/ 1	1877	PF-67	3/ 0/ 84
1853 A&R	PF-66	1/ 0/ 4	1878	PF-67	2/ 0/ 120
1854	PF-66	3/ 0/ 10	1879	PF-66	16/ 4/ 192
1855	PF-65	2/ 1/ 8	1880	PF-68	5/ 0/ 239
1856	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1881	PF-68 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 3
1857	PF-66	3/ 0/ 23	1882	PF-67	9/ 0/ 187
1858	PF-67	2/ 0/ 39	1883	PF-68	1/ 1/ 215
1859	PF-67	4/ 0/ 84	1884	PF-68	1/ 1/ 182
1860	PF-66	3/ 1/ 57	1885	PF-67 CAMEO	3/ 0/ 6
1861	PF-66	2/ 1/ 54	1886	PF-68 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 7
1862	PF-66	7/ 0/ 77	1887	PF-67	8/ 1/ 158
1863	PF-67	3/ 0/ 101	1888	PF-66	14/ 5/ 143
1864	PF-66	7/ 1/ 91	1889	PF-67	9/ 4/ 126
1865	PF-68 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1890	PF-68 CAMEO	5/ 0/ 12
1866 WM	PF-68	2/ 0/ 91	1891	PF-67	12/ 1/ 150

Pedigree: Coins from the Pittman Collection: 1839, 1841, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1850, 1877. Coins from the Eliasberg Collection: 1840 With Drapery. Coins from the Starr Collection: 1847. Coins from the Norman Stack Type Collection: 1853 Arrows & Rays, 1854.

The Kaufman Collection **Liberty Seated Proof Half Dollars**

Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified		Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified	
		Population				Population	
1839 ND	PF-62	1/	0/ 2	1866 WM	PF-68	1/ 0/	55
1839 WD	PF-64	1/	0/ 1	1867	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/	6
1840	PF-65	1/	0/ 2	1868	PF-67	2/ 1/	93
1841	PF-63	1/	2/ 3	1869	PF-67	3/ 1/	110
1842 SD	PF-66	1/	0/ 6	1870	PF-67	3/ 0/	88
1843	PF-65	1/	0/ 4	1871	PF-66	3/ 3/	88
1844	PF-65	1/	0/ 1	1872	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/	1
1845	PF-66	1/	0/ 3	1873 NA	PF-67	2/ 0/	106
1846	PF-65	1/	0/ 7	1873 WA	PF-66	5/ 0/	91
1847	PF-65	1/	1/ 8	1874	PF-66	4/ 3/	125
1848	PF-66	1/	0/ 2	1875	PF-67	5/ 1/	86
1849	PF-65	1/	1/ 3	1876	PF-66	4/ 2/	112
1850	PF-66	1/	0/ 2	1877	PF-66 CAMEO	1/ 0/	5
1852	PF-65	1/	0/ 2	1878	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/	9
1853 A&R	PF-66	1/	0/ 3	1879	PF-68	2/ 0/	185
1854	PF-66	3/	0/ 13	1880	PF-67	11/ 0/	221
1855	PF-66	2/	0/ 4	1881	PF-65	36/19/	174
1856	PF-66	1/	0/ 10	1882	PF-68 CAMEO	1/ 0/	6
1857	PF-66	2/	0/ 26	1883	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/	9
1858	PF-67	1/	1/ 31	1884	PF-67	4/ 0/	132
1859	PF-67	5/	0/107	1885	PF-66	18/ 8/	180
1860	PF-66	5/	0/ 74	1886	PF-67	8/ 1/	169
1861	PF-67	1/	0/ 66	1887	PF-67	3/ 0/	121
1862	PF-67	1/	0/111	1888	PF-67 CAMEO	1/ 0/	1
1863	PF-69	1/	0/ 79	1889	PF-66	13/11/	118
1864	PF-66 CAMEO	1/	0/ 2	1890	PF-68	2/ 0/	132
1865	PF-67	5/	1/130	1891	PF-67	4/ 1/	124

Pedigree: Coins from the Pittman Collection: 1839 With Drapery, 1840, 1842 Small Date, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1850. Coins from the Eliasberg Collection: 1841, 1858. Coins from the Starr Collection: 1849. Coins from the Norweb Collection: 1853 Arrows & Rays. Coins from the Garrett Collection: 1857.

The Kaufman Collection **Liberty Seated Proof Dollars**

Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population	Date	NGC Grade	NGC Certified Population
1840	PF-65	1/ 0/ 12	1857	PF-65	3/ 2/ 20
1841	PF-63	2/ 1/ 3	1858	PF-66	3/ 0/ 44
1842	PF-65	1/ 0/ 6	1859	PF-67	2/ 0/ 87
1843	PF-64	2/ 0/ 7	1860	PF-66	4/ 0/ 83
1844	PF-65	1/ 1/ 9	1861	PF-66	3/ 0/ 53
1845	PF-67	1/ 0/ 8	1862	PF-65	14/ 6/ 104
1846	PF-65	1/ 0/ 14	1863	PF-68	2/ 0/ 88
1847	PF-66	1/ 0/ 16	1864	PF-67	1/ 0/ 82
1848	PF-67	1/ 0/ 7	1865	PF-66	12/ 4/ 113
1849	PF-67	1/ 0/ 8	1866 WM	PF-67	3/ 1/ 138
1850	PF-66	1/ 0/ 14	1867	PF-66 CAMEO	2/ 0/ 3
1851 Restrike	PF-65	2/ 0/ 15	1868	PF-66	6/ 3/ 138
1852 Restrike	PF-65	1/ 0/ 3	1869	PF-67	7/ 0/ 131
1853	PF-66 CAMEO	1/ 0/ 1	1870	PF-66	9/ 0/ 126
1854	PF-66	2/ 0/ 20	1871	PF-66 CAMEO	1/ 1/ 5
1855	PF-65	3/ 0/ 13	1872	PF-67	1/ 0/ 111
1856	PF-65	4/ 1/ 30	1873	PF-66	6/ 0/ 108

Pedigree: Coins from the Pittman Collection: 1843, 1844, 1845, 1852, 1853, 1872.
Coins from the Starr Collection: 1840, 1841, 1856, 1857.



1839 No Drapery Proof Half Dollar from Kaufman Collection
in NGC PF-62 Condition

A Fantastic Hoard of Mint State 1875-CC Half Dollars

by

Weimar W. White

I have been intrigued by Carson City coinage since the early 1960s and I have been particularly interested in these coins in uncirculated condition. I purchased Carson City coins whenever I had an opportunity and I was able to obtain examples of the 13 Carson City Morgan dollars in mint state. This was at a time before the government released almost three million of these Carson City dollars to the public. Needless to say, I found the government release somewhat unsettling but it never diminished my interest in uncirculated Carson City coinage.

I started to communicate with the late D. Reginald Tibbetts almost ten years ago and quickly learned that he was as intrigued by Carson City coinage as I was. Sometime during 1994 I informed Reginald that I was searching for an 1875-CC half dollar in uncirculated condition. He called me on the telephone and told me that he had 20 such specimens and that he would sell me one of his coins. He said that he would send me the entire group of twenty coins and that I could pick the one that I liked best.

I did not sleep very well during the next few nights knowing that a hoard of 20 uncirculated 1875-CC half dollars was on its way to my home. The thought that I would soon be examining over 20% of all of the known mint state coins of this date kept running through my mind. As soon as they arrived I examined each piece under diverse lighting with my microscope. Reginald had purchased these coins from different dealers over a period of years and no doubt felt that all 20 coins were uncirculated. However, I thought that only 13 of the 20 coins could be described as mint state. I would classify the other coins as high grade about uncirculated examples of this date.



Mint State 1875-CC Half Dollar With Die Clashed Obverse

The specimen that I chose to buy was a pristine satin white coin that Reginald had purchased as Lot #2100 from the Montgomery Sale by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries in February 1976. This coin looked like it had just been minted. It had been sealed in a plastic envelope for over eighteen years. Not only was the coin a true mint state specimen, but it had very strong obverse clash marks that are rarely seen so well defined on any Liberty Seated half dollar. I felt that the six very clear clash marks made this coin a discovery specimen. Pictures were taken and a description of the coin was published in Issue #61 of the journal in November 1994.

A friend of mine asked Reginald if he could also buy one of the mint state 1875-CC half dollars in the hoard. He selected a second specimen from the hoard and the remaining 18 coins were shipped back to Reginald. I do not know what happened to the remaining coins but I do know something about the two coins that Reginald sold in 1994. My 1875-CC half dollar was graded MS-63 by ANACS and the other coin he sold was graded MS-64 by another grading service. However, my coin was the only one in the hoard with strong clash marks and this made a big difference to me.

I never expected to have an opportunity to examine a large hoard of mint state 1875-CC half dollars. Few collectors ever get a chance to examine a hoard that represents a significant percentage of the estimated total population of mint state coins for a given date. Even fewer collectors ever get the opportunity to then purchase the one coin from this hoard that they liked the best.

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HALF DIMES

1838	Small stars, V-1, AU-58	\$395
1840	WD, AU-58, prooflike	375
1841	1/1, V-4, NGC MS-63	295
1844	V-3, ANACS MS-61	225
1849	Repunched date, NGC MS-63	525
1853-O	No arrows, ANACS F-12	350
1858	Doubled date, SEGS MS-64	1750
1858	Over inverted 1858, SEGS MS-63	750
1859	V-4, PCGS MS-64	575
1865-S	V-4, AU-50, rare	495
1872-S	Clashed reverse date, MS-64	375

DIMES

1838-O	GR-101, ANACS XF-40	\$525
1838	Obverse die crack, MS-63	595
1839-O	Huge O, ANACS net VF-20	495
1844	AU-50, mottled toning	1950
1846	PCGS XF-45, lustrous	1450
1849-O	Small o, MS-60, rare	1950
1852-O	AU-50, semi-prooflike	375
1856-S	SEGS AU-55, light cleaning	1875
1859-S	VF-35, nice	750
1860-O	F15/12, extremely rare	795
1864	AU-58+, prooflike	750
1867	MS-60-, business strike	1200
1872-CC	PCGS VF-25, ex-Eliasberg	3250
1876	Doubled die rev, ANACS MS-62	225
1879	GR-102, PCI AU-58	475
1885-S	ANACS XF-40, lustrous	1975
1889	GR-101, ANACS MS-64	625

QUARTERS

1839	Open Claws, Briggs 1-A, AU-50	\$425
1840-O	Small o, Briggs 2-C, AU-58	525
1842-O	Small Date, F12/VG8, rare	1150
1842-O	Briggs 2-B, PCGS AU-55	625
1844-O	18 in denticles, PCGS AU-55	550
1847	47/47, doubled die rev, MS-60	575
1847-O	AU-55, beautiful toning	975
1849-O	VG-8-, rare, nice	595
1850	1 on rim, AU-58, prooflike	495
1851-O	Briggs 1-B, F-12	325
1853	No arrows, NGC VF-35, original	1650
1853	VF-30, rotated reverse	150
1853	1853/854, PCGS AU-55, nice	1150
1853-O	Unlisted, XF-45	475
1854	Doubled die rev, MS-61	475
1855	Doubled die rev, MS-60	575
1855-O	MS-62, prooflike	3900

QUARTERS

1856-S	S/s, AU-53, lustrous	\$950
1857-O	Briggs 1-A, AU-58, prooflike	595
1857-S	Briggs 1-A, MS-62, frosty	3750
1858-O	Briggs 1-A, AU-55, rare	595
1858-S	Briggs 1-A, AU-53, cleaned	875
1862-S	Briggs 1-A, XF-40	495
1866-S	XF-45+, lustrous	1375
1867	NGC MS-62, ex-Childs	975
1872-S	Briggs 1-A, F-15	1750
1872-CC	VG8/G4-	595
1873	WA, ANACS MS-61	850
1873	WA, recut 3, MS-60	575
1874-S	MS-64, beautiful	1750
1877-S	Over horizontal S, MS-63	1750
1879	Briggs 1-A, XF-40	375
1880	MS-63, Briggs 1-A	750
1881	Briggs 1-A, VF-25	295
1882	Briggs 2-B, XF-40	350
1885	VF-25	295
1887	SEGS PR-58, full white	450

HALF DOLLARS

1841	WB-102, AU-55, original	\$425
1842-O	Small Date, PCGS VF-35	2900
1844-O	WB-103, XF-40	2475
1845-O	Triple date, WB-106, VF-35	375
1846	Over horizontal 6, ANACS AU-50	975
1850	WB-101, AU-53, lightly cleaned	675
1850	WB-102, ANACS AU-50	825
1852-O	G-4, slightly dark	135
1853	Doubled die rev, ANACS AU-58	875
1855/4	WB-102, NGC AU-50	625
1857-S	Medium S, WB-102, AU-50	675
1857-S	WB-103, VF30/35, rare	425
1865	WB-103, VF-35, rare	325
1870-CC	No drapery, VF-25+	3900
1871-CC	WB-102, VG-8, rare	475
1872	8s in rock, WB-102, VF-35	175
1873-CC	No arrows, XF-40	1450
1874-CC	WB-101, PCGS VG-10	495
1874-CC	WB-101, ANACS VF-20	895
1877-S	Tripled S, WB-103, MS-60	575
1878-S	AU-58, prooflike, field mark	39,000

SEATED DOLLARS

1846	Recut 18, Accugrade MS-60	\$875
1869	186 in denticles, PR-61	1450
1870-CC	AU-50-, nice luster	2900
1872-CC	VG-8	1150

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The Missing San Francisco Mint Cornerstone

by

Nancy Oliver & Richard Kelly

Records reveal that designers of the second San Francisco Mint building had a cornerstone built into it during construction in 1870. This was a centuries old tradition for public buildings and a common practice at that time. A cornerstone is defined to be a ceremonial building block, usually placed ritually into the outer wall of a building to commemorate dedication of the structure. Typically it is hollowed out to contain metal receptacles for documents, newspapers, photos and other objects to reflect current customs. Their stored purpose is for historical use when the building is either remodeled or demolished. During the 19th century, the cornerstone was usually placed at the corner of the building, possibly the first of the foundation stones in the structure.

A granite cornerstone was placed somewhere within the northeast corner of the basement floor of the second San Francisco Mint building during elaborate Masonic ceremonies on May 25, 1870. Its location and its contents have been the subject or mystery, debate and rumor for over 100 years. According to written accounts of the ceremonies, a large copper casket measuring 16 inches long, 8 inches wide and 6 inches deep was placed into a cavity in the five foot thick stone. This casket was filled with current official documents, letters from dignitaries, artifacts from industry and several specimens of coins minted at the first San Francisco Mint on Commercial Street.

Workmen restoring the Mint's exterior were asked to locate the cornerstone in 1974 but apparently never found it despite extensive work that included stone and mortar replacements. The mystery is thus established. Does the cornerstone still exist within the foundation of the building or has it or its contents been removed at some time in the past? Furthermore, no one has been able to produce documentation to indicate exactly what coins were placed into the cornerstone in 1870. All newspaper



Unique 1870-S Half Dime

accounts of the event simply state that the following coins were placed inside: "One of each denomination of the several coins of the United States of America, all struck off at the San Francisco Branch Mint in the year 1870".

The half dime was the smallest denomination coin being produced in San Francisco at the time and it was struck every year from 1863 to 1873 except that there is no record of half dime production in 1870. Records indicate that mintage fluctuated from a low of 90,000 coins for the 1864-S half dime to a high of 837,000 coins for the 1872-S half dime. While six pairs of dies were sent to San Francisco in December 1869 for the production of half dimes during the following year, there is no record that any coins were ever struck from these dies. Yet, somehow, one 1870-S half dime does exist. This lone specimen, unknown for more than 100 years, mysteriously appeared in a box of old coins that was taken by an unknown collector to a coin dealer in Orland Park, Illinois in 1978. The coin was eventually sold to Ed Milas at Rare Coin Company of America and this discovery piece was exhibited at the ANA Convention in Houston, Texas in August 1978. The unique 1870-S half dime now resides in a PCGS holder and has been graded MS-63. It as sold to Jay Parrino in 1985. One theory on this coin states that it may have been retrieved from the San Francisco mint cornerstone at some time in the past. Another theory indicates that it may be a duplicate to a piece that still resides in the cornerstone.

Fifty thousand Liberty Seated dimes were struck at the San Francisco mint in 1870. This is the second lowest mintage for Seated dimes in San Francisco. All 1870-S dimes were reportedly struck in November 1870, but the dies were already on hand in May. It is therefore possible that an example of the 1870-S dime was placed in the mint cornerstone in 1870.

There are no known 1870-S quarters at this time. But we have found a letter dated January 5, 1870 from San Francisco Mint Superintendent Oscar H. LaGrange requesting a shipment of quarter dollar dies from Philadelphia. Six sets of quarter dies were sent to San Francisco on January 14, 1870 but there is no record that these dies were ever used to strike 1870-S quarters.



The 1870-S Dime from the Lovejoy Collection

There were 1,004,000 half dollars struck at the San Francisco mint in 1870. This mintage figure for the 1870-S half dollar compares favorably with half dollar mintages of this period. It seems likely that an example of the 1870-S half dollar was placed in the cornerstone.

There are nine known examples of the 1870-S silver dollar, all struck from the same reverse die with a shallow thin s mintmark. All of these pieces show the remains of some proof like surfaces and all show wear from circulation. The question about whether dies for the 1870-S Seated dollar were ever sent to San Francisco is answered in the letter from Philadelphia Mint Director James Pollock to Superintendent LaGrange dated May 16, 1870: "Sir, Enclosed please find receipt of the Adams Express Co. package of one sett of dies for 3 dollar pieces and 2 setts ditto for one dollar pieces to replace the dies specified in your telegram of the 13th inst. from which the letter "S" has been omitted. Not being able to determine whether the defective one dollar dies were for gold or silver coin, I have sent one sett of each. Please advise me of their safe arrival. James Pollock".

We can therefore conclude that one set of silver dollar dies was sent to San Francisco on May 16, 1870. The dies would have arrived by rail in time for the May 25th ceremonies but the existence of the 1870-S silver dollar was not known until 1914, leaving some doubt about whether a piece was ever struck for the cornerstone.

During the 1850s the gold dollar was regularly struck in San Francisco, but by 1870 it had been ten years since this denomination was produced at the western mint. Nevertheless, mint records show that 3,000 examples of the 1870-S gold dollar were struck in 1870. It has been speculated that 2,000 of these pieces were issued without a mintmark. This speculation is generated by a telegram sent by Superintendent LaGrange to Director Pollock dated May 14, 1870 stating: "Letter S omitted on One and Three Dollar dies sent to this branch mint for this year. 2000 pieces coined. Can they be issued?"

If LaGrange followed Pollock's orders, all 3,000 gold dollars issued from San Francisco would have mintmarks. Pollock's answer to this telegram also dated May 14th orders LaGrange to "not issue, but recoin the pieces. Will send dies." It is possible that an 1870-S gold dollar was placed in the cornerstone because this denomination was struck for circulation and new dies with the S mintmark were sent to San Francisco on May 16th. These dies would have arrived by rail in plenty of time to have been used to strike a coin for the cornerstone.

There were 16,000 examples of the 1870-S gold quarter eagle struck in 1870. This denomination was struck for circulation in 1870 and it is likely that an example was placed in the cornerstone.

There is currently only one known example of the San Francisco \$3 gold piece of 1870. This coin first became known through a 1907 advertisement by H.T. Van Camp offering the piece for sale. The appearance of this coin caused quite a stir among collectors since this denomination was not known to have been struck in San Francisco after 1860. The first appearance of the 1870-S Three Dollar coin was accompanied by a note from J.B. Harmstead, chief coiner at the San Francisco Mint stating: "This Three Dollar piece is a duplicate of the one under the cornerstone of the San Francisco Mint and the only one in existence." This note confirms that an 1870-S \$3 gold coin resides in the cornerstone. A May 27th letter from LaGrange to Pollock states: "It is proper to state that our coiner cut the letter S on the three dollar die after it was received here for the purpose of stamping a single piece to be put into the

casket of the cornerstone of our new mint building. Only one piece was struck under my direction for the purpose above stated." Pollock's response on June 3rd states: "Your letter dated 27th of May has been received together with the returned dies. The special use made of one of them in a single instance, was very proper and unobjectionable, under the circumstances." This correspondence proves that both Superintendent LaGrange and Director Pollock were aware of one 1870-S \$3 gold coin. It is not known when or why a second example of the 1870-S \$3 gold coin was struck. The unique 1870-S \$3 gold coin that was discovered in 1907 was last sold as part of the Eliasberg gold collection in 1982 by Bowers & Ruddy Galleries.

The gold half eagle, the gold eagle and the gold double eagle were all struck for circulation at the San Francisco mint in 1870. We believe that an example of each of these coins was placed in the cornerstone.

During our research for this article we discovered that the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and subsequent fire scorched the north wall of the mint building where the cornerstone was originally placed. Accounts of this incident relate that the heat was so intense that pieces of sandstone and granite exploded off the exterior walls of the building. It is a distinct possibility that the heat of the fire broke off that section of the plaque or the engraved lettering that identified the location of the cornerstone. When workman repaired the building in 1906, they most likely never replaced the cornerstone markings because they never knew the cornerstone was there. Without the traditional cornerstone markings it would have been difficult to locate the cornerstone during restoration on the Mint building in 1974. We have not been able to identify the location of the cornerstone in our research nor have we found any evidence that the cornerstone was ever opened.

1873-CC With Arrows Dime For Sale

This piece has the detail of a Fine coin, but it has been harshly cleaned leaving obvious scratches. Its color is medium gray, with the scratches showing the underlying silver. There is also a cut in the rim area below the mintmark. LIBERTY is complete and strong, readable to the naked eye. The diagnostic die crack through the mintmark is present and clearly visible. This coin has been in the hands of a non-collector for an extended period of time, so it is new to the market. It was probably unearthed with a metal detector in the Carson City area. It is an acceptable filler for this scarce date which can be improved upon in time. An image is available by E-mail. Please feel free to contact us for more details. We are giving a full 30 day return privilege on this item.

1873-CC With Arrows dime, Fine detail but harshly cleaned \$850

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LSCC Meeting at FUN Convention

LSCC held a regional meeting of the club during the Florida United Numismatists Convention at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on January 7, 2000. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9AM on Friday January 7th and it was attended by twenty five people from fourteen different states. Individuals signing the attendance roster at the first LSCC meeting in the year 2000 were: Gene Eller, Indiana; Brian Greer, Iowa; Bob Keebler, Florida; Frank Leone, New York; Chris Pilliod, Pennsylvania; Ken Hill, Washington; Stephen Crain, Maine; Michelle Crain, Maine; Mike Topp, Ohio; Alan Bricker, Maryland; Lynn Ourso, Louisiana; James Smith, Virginia; John Bonds, Florida; Terry Searcy, Michigan; Craig Eberhart, New Mexico; Bob Foster, Texas; and Harry Beckham, Florida.

A general discussion revealed the same old complaint, more people looking for nice collector coins without much success. This year it was particularly difficult to locate rare date Seated coins or rare varieties in the Seated series. It was pointed out that a new aspect of the coin market has been developing on the Internet. This was discussed and it was concluded that there is a real possibility that many coins previously available to collectors and dealers at shows are now being sold on the Internet.

It was also mentioned that the SEGS Grading Service has recently certified and encapsulated an 1853 Arrows & Rays half dollar with a new doubled die reverse. This new discovery coin is unlike any of the four previously known doubled die reverses reported by Dick Osburn and Randy Wiley for this date. Both of these experts confirmed this new find while attending a recent show in Baltimore. The new discovery coin has nice doubling on HALF DOLLAR.

It is always a pleasure to see old friends, meet new members and assist in conducting the meetings of LSCC. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the interesting discussion at the meeting and I hope that the new century brings many great years for all of us.

Larry Briggs
Vice President LSCC

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An Early Die State 1839 GR-101 Dime

by

Tim Cook



The 1839 GR-101 dime with a pie shaped obverse die crack has long been recognized as an extremely rare variety in the Seated dime series. This variety was first described as the A-2 variety by Kam Ahwash in his encyclopedia on Seated dimes in 1977. He described it as very rare with very few examples known to exist. This variety has a spectacular die crack that bisects the obverse from 11:30 to 6:30 with another crack running from the center of the coin out to the rim at 3:00. The recutting on the date described by Ahwash is very slight. There is slight repunching on the 3rd, 4th, 10th and 13th stars and a noticeably repunched 8th star.

Only a few examples of this variety are known at this time. Brian Greer had seen only two examples of this variety prior to the publication of his guide to the Seated dime series in 1992. These coins are the plate coin from his book that grades AU-55 and another specimen that grades G-4. Since that time two additional pieces have been identified in grades of G-4 and G-6. All of these coins are reportedly in the same

die state with the strong pie shaped die cracks. From near the center of the coin, one crack runs up through the Seated figure to the left side of the 7th star and on to the rim. Another crack runs from the center of the coin, across Miss Liberty's legs to the 13th star and on to the rim. A third crack runs from the center of the coin through the shield, down between the 1 and 8 in the date and on to the rim. No early die state examples of this variety had ever been documented to exist.

During 1998 there was a piece listed in Coin World that could have been an example of this variety. The coin was described only as having a vertical die crack so I wasn't sure that it was actually an example of the GR-101 variety. I ordered the coin and when it finally came in the mail, I discovered that it was indeed a GR-101 dime in an earlier die state. The coin grades AU-50/55 and has a small rim ding at 2:00. The vertical die crack is visible but weak as it extends up through the 7th star. The horizontal crack is very weak as it runs out toward the 13th star.

To my knowledge, this is the only known example of this variety in an earlier die state with weak obverse die cracks. It is still possible that this die shattered with the very first strike from the obverse die. I would urge collectors to examine their 1839 dimes, especially looking for repunching at the 8th star to see if they might own an earlier die state example of this rare variety. This was an exciting discovery for me and I would expect that other examples of this variety would be identified with a more extensive search through coins of this date.



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A Study of 1876 Liberty Seated Half Dollars

by

J. Russell Prinzinger

I began studying Liberty Seated half dollars several years before Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert published their comprehensive reference book on this series in 1993. This new book identified many new varieties for the half dollar collector and gave us a better understanding of the wide range of varieties produced at the mint during the 19th century. My studies have continued over the years and I have been able to locate over 90% of the varieties listed in the Wiley-Bugert book. I have also been able to identify at least 50 additional Seated halves that do not fit any of the descriptions in their book.

For the last five years I have concentrated my studies on identifying varieties for the Philadelphia half dollars of 1876. My obsession with these half dollars began when a coin that I had purchased did not completely match the picture for the WB-103 variety in the Wiley-Bugert reference book. My coin had an errant 6 in the denticles but it was in a different location from the extra digit illustrated for the WB-103 variety. I identified this coin as a new variety for the 1876 half dollar. With a mintage of over 8.4 million pieces, I realized that there must be more varieties of this date just waiting to be discovered.

Wiley & Bugert list six varieties for the 1876 half dollar which they have identified as WB-101 to WB-106. I have identified 13 more varieties for this date which I have called RP-7 to RP-19. I have now reached the point where no new varieties are being found for the 1876 half dollar. I am therefore reporting the varieties that I have identified for reference by other club members. This list has been compiled through the combined assistance and cooperation of Randy Wiley, Bill Bugert and Dick Osburn. While the search through coins of this date has been extensive over a period of several years, it is likely that other varieties will be added to the list once collectors are aware of the progress that has been made in this study.

Descriptions for varieties WB-101 to WB-106 are given in the Wiley-Bugert guide to the Liberty Seated half dollar series. Descriptions for varieties RP-7 to RP-19 are included in this article along with pictures that clearly identify the new varieties.

RP-7. Errant 6 in Denticles Below 76. The top of an extra 6 fills the gap between two denticles below the right side of the 7 in the date. The extra digit is also visible between denticles below the left side of the 6 in the date. This extra digit is located higher in the denticles and one denticle to the right of the extra digit illustrated for variety WB-103. This variety has a Type 1 reverse with the open bud. It is also mentioned by Wiley & Bugert in their guide to the Seated half dollar series but it is not illustrated and it is not given a separate number in their book.

RP-8. Errant 8 From Rock. A fragment from an extra 8 extends from rock over left side of 8 in date. There is also evidence of at least three more curved lines in the rock directly over the misplaced 8. Another weak fragment appears in the rock over the 1. The 1 in the date is repunched at the top. This variety has a Type 1 reverse.



1876 RP-7 Half Dollar with Errant 6 in Denticles



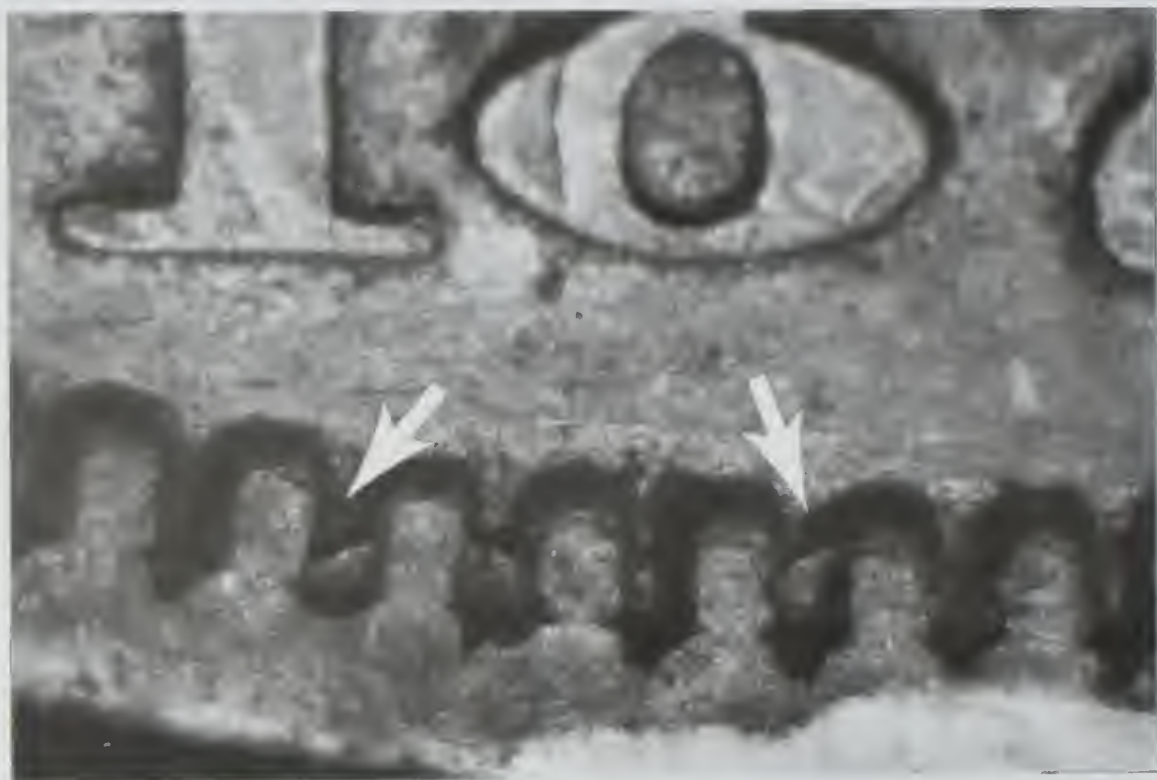
1876 RP-8 Half Dollar with Errant 8 From Rock

RP-9. Errant Digits in Denticles Below 8. The top of an extra digit is visible on both sides of the denticle below the left edge of the 8 in the date. Another extra digit is visible on both sides of the denticle below the right edge of the 8 in the date. All digits in the date slightly recut, with recutting visible under the serif of the 1, inside the top loop of the 8, under the crossbar of the 7 and along the inside top of both loops and knob of the 6. This variety has a Type 1 reverse.

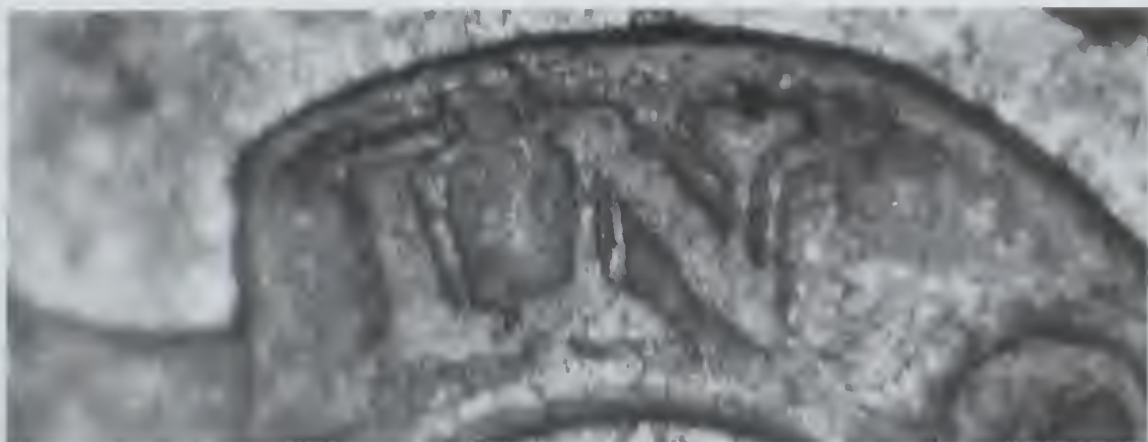
RP-10. Errant 6 in Rock Above 6. The bottom of an extra 6 is visible in the rock above the right edge of the 6 in the date. There is very slight repunching on all of the digits in the date. This variety was reported and described by Frank Van Valen in Issue #59 of the journal. Dick Osburn purchased that coin and found it had a Type 1 reverse. I subsequently found another coin with this obverse and a Type 2 reverse.

RP-11. Doubled Die Reverse. This variety has the same obverse as the WB-103 variety with the errant 6 in the denticles, but it has a doubled die reverse. This variety has a Type 2 reverse that shows doubling on all of the lettering and the eagle's talons. The doubling is the strongest on the letters IN and WE in the motto.

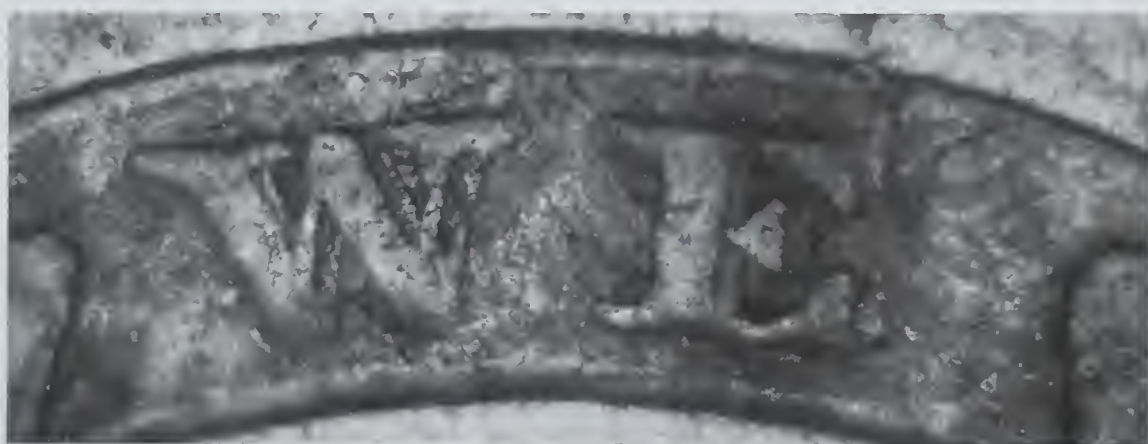
RP-12. Errant 1 From Hair. A thin rectangular bar that appears to be the base of a 1 sticks out from the hair to the left of the pole below the hand. This variety has a Type 1 reverse.



1876 RP-9 Half Dollar with Errant Digits in Denticles



1876 RP-11 Half Dollar with Doubled Die Reverse



1876 RP-11 Half Dollar with Doubled Die Reverse

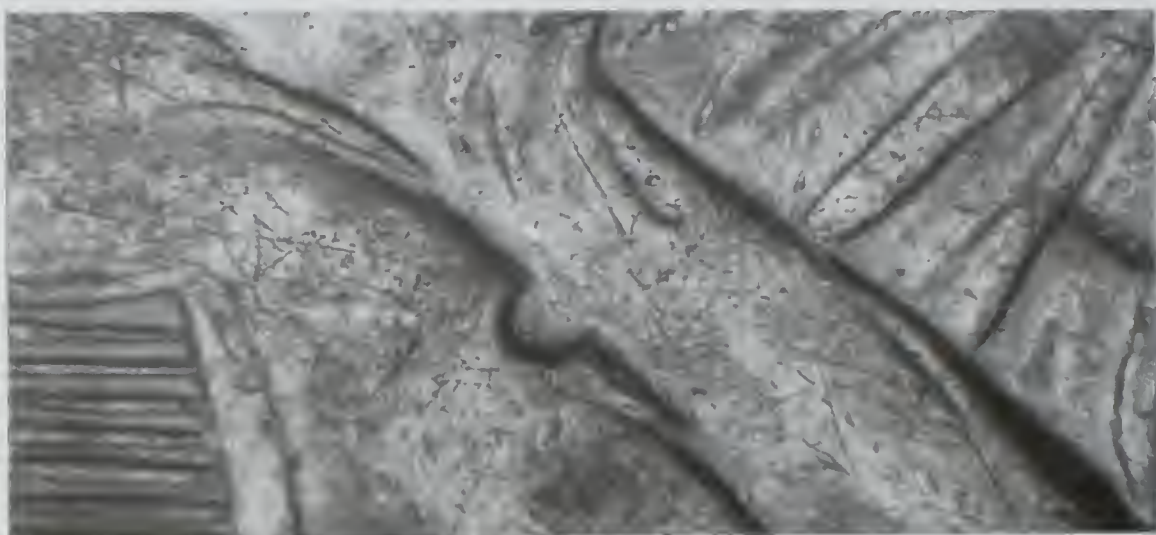


1876 RP-12 Half Dollar with Errant 1 From Hair

RP-13. Center Dot Head Die. A clear recessed center dot on obverse similar to that seen on the 1843 WB-104 obverse. There is no repunching on the date digits and this variety has a Type 2 reverse. This variety was previously reported and illustrated in Issue #71 of the journal.

RP-14. Transitional Tail Hub Variety. This variety has the transitional reverse with the open bud like the Type 1 reverse but with the sharp center rib on the middle olive leaf of the lower leaf group like the Type 2 reverse. Another characteristic of this reverse is clear doubling on the G and the second T in the motto. This reverse was described in the Wiley-Bugert guide for the 1877 WB-102 half dollar and then reported as a variety for the 1876 half dollar by Dick Osburn in Issue #66 of the journal. The transitional reverse was paired with at least four different obverse dies.

RP-15. Broken 1 in Date. This variety has a raised lump near the base of the 1 with an irregular groove at its bottom. There is a thin die crack that passes completely through the lump. This variety has a Type 2 reverse. It was discovered by Randy Wiley but it is not described in his guide to the Seated half dollar series.



1876 RP-13 Half Dollar with Center Dot Head Die



1876 RP-14 Half Dollar from Transitional Tail Hub



1876 RP-14 Half Dollar from Transitional Tail Hub



1876 RP-15 Half Dollar with Broken 1

RP-16. Recut 76 in Date. The 76 in the date recut at the base, with doubling clearly showing below the tip of the 7 and on the lower left side of the 6. Center dot head die. This variety has a Type 1 reverse. It was previously reported and illustrated in Issue #71 of the journal.

RP-17. Recut 6 Between 76. Remains of errant 6 between the crossbar of the 7 and the upper left edge of the 6. This variety has a Type 1 reverse. It was discovered by Dick Osburn.

RP-18. Tripled 76 in Date. Triple punched digits most evident on the upper inside of the two loops of the 6 and below the bottom loop of this digit. Tripling also visible below the crossbar of the 7. This variety has a Type 1 reverse.

RP-19. Errant Punch on Neck. The obverse of this variety has an errant C or S punched into the neck of Miss Liberty. This variety has a Type 1 reverse. It was described and illustrated in Issue #70 of the journal by Allan Murphy.

I have several more half dollars that I am in the process of evaluating but I have not yet assigned a variety number to them. While I have examined a large quantity of half dollars of this date, I would expect that other varieties will be found with more extensive studies by other collectors.



1876 RP-16 Half Dollar with Recut 76



1876 RP-17 Half Dollar with Recut 6 Between 76



1876 RP-18 Half Dollar with Tripled 76

The 1841 No Drapery Proof Dime

by

John W. McCloskey



The 1841 No Drapery proof dime is an extremely rare variety in the Seated dime series with only two examples currently known to exist. This variety has never been carefully studied by numismatic scholars of Seated coinage, most likely because an example has not appeared at auction for many years. I believe that the origin of this variety has not been adequately explained and that it may be more important in the development of the With Drapery design than is generally recognized. Eric P. Newman recently sent in pictures of a proof example of this variety that was once owned by Col. E.H.R. Green. There is no question that the coin was struck in 1841 using an obverse die that was produced from a new hub that was made in 1840. The coin clearly shows the new Seated figure with the smaller rock, the upright shield and the hand positioned higher on the pole. However the Seated figure on this die has no drapery, a feature different from that seen on all of the dies prepared from the new With Drapery obverse hub.

An explanation for the lack of drapery on this die is given by Kam Ahwash in his encyclopedia on the Liberty Seated dime series. He states that the obverse die was severely lapped before it was used to strike coins resulting in the removal of the drapery from the design. After studying an example of the 1841 No Drapery proof dime, Eric Newman does not believe that this is a reasonable explanation for the no drapery feature. He believes that the drapery would have been too deeply impressed into the obverse die to have been completely removed by lapping of the die field. I have studied a number of early dimes with drapery and the picture of the 1841 No Drapery dime that appears with this article. I also believe that the drapery could not have been completely removed from the obverse die by lapping of the die field. Furthermore, I believe that the mint would not have chosen to strike proof coins from a severely lapped die that did not contain the complete dime design of this period.

I would like to present an explanation for the existence of the 1841 No Drapery Proof dime based upon my studies of Seated dimes of this period. I would expect that my comments would be revised and expanded as other numismatic scholars examine the information presented on this variety.

The mint modified the obverse design for the Liberty Seated dime in a number of noticeable ways in 1840. The rock was reduced in size, the shield was turned to an upright position and the hand was moved up higher on the pole with the index finger pointing up toward the cap. Miss Liberty's shield arm on the left side of the coin is bare and there is a clasp on her shoulder. Her pole arm on the right side of the coin is also bare and there is a pole running down in front of this arm to her leg. Both arms are clearly separated from the gown worn by Miss Liberty with only the two hands in contact with the central device. There is a clear gown line running down to the right of the shield arm and the pole arm does not extend down to the leg of the Seated figure. I believe that this was the complete design punched into a master die with a hub produced for it. This hub would have had the positive image that was to appear on the coins and mint officials would have had the opportunity to study the details of the image that was produced. At this point it appears that mint officials were not satisfied with the new obverse design with both arms separated from the gown of the Seated figure. I believe that the mint then produced a new master die from the existing hub or went back and modified the master die already on hand. A strong drapery fold was engraved into the master die from the pole arm to the right of the elbow, running down through the field to the gown below the knee. The area below the pole arm was then modified to produce a horizontal line, giving the appearance of gown material behind the pole arm. The drapery lines on the left were then extended out to the shield arm, giving the impression that the gown extended out behind this arm. I believe that this modified design was then used to create another hub that was used to produce the With Drapery obverse dies for the next several years.

The new hub without drapery was used to produce one obverse die. This die was dated 1841 and it was used to strike proof dimes. Two specimens are currently known to exist. One of these was sold in Kagin's 1973 MANA sale where it was defined as once a proof, now VF to EF. Does anyone know who currently owns this specimen? The other coin is a perfect proof illustrated with this article.

The 1841 No Drapery dime has previously been described as having been struck from a heavily lapped With Drapery obverse die. I believe that this explanation completely misrepresents the importance of this variety. I believe that the 1841 No Drapery dime has a unique transitional obverse that was modified to create the With Drapery design for the dime series. This analysis would make the 1841 No Drapery dime a transitional variety that could provide valuable information on the creation of the With Drapery design.

I have noticed that the vertical line segments in the shield above the E in LIBERTY are stronger on the 1841 No Drapery proof dime than they are on other coins of this period. I believe that this observation could be an important feature in identifying the source of this variety. A number of mysteries may still surround the existence of the 1841 No Drapery proof dime, but hopefully the ideas expressed in this article will focus some attention on this long hidden rarity in the Seated dime series.

I want to specifically thank Eric P. Newman for providing the pictures of the 1841 No Drapery proof dime and for giving us the opportunity to present information on this rare and important coin.

QUARTERS

1840-O	WD, Large O, ANACS VG-8 . . .	\$875
1840-O	WD, Large O, SEGS XF-40	1750
1845	NGC MS-63, 5 over 5 variety . .	850
1846	ANACS AU-50	150
1847	NGC MS-63, 7 over 7 variety . .	925
1848	PCGS VF-35, cleaned	140
1854-O	Choice AU-58, lightly toned . . .	425
1859-S	VG+	130
1860-S	VG+, uneven reverse wear . . .	220
1864-S	VG-, small mark by date	430
1864-S	VG, old cleaning	440
1864-S	Fine, cleaned, some stains	475
1864-S	Fine, tiny obverse scratch	550
1864-S	NGC VF-35	1050
1866-S	Fine, old cleaning	425
1866-S	NGC VF-20, nice	750
1867	ANACS VG-8, lightly cleaned . .	225
1867-S	PCGS Fine-15, tiny obv scratch	350
1869	Good	240
1869	NGC Proof-55	260
1871-S	VG/AG+	325
1872-CC	VG/AG+, original	550
1872-CC	PCGS VG-8	875
1872-CC	NGC VF-25	2150
1873	NA, Closed 3, VG/G-, small ding	165
1875-S	PCGS MS-63, untoned	1200
1879	VG+, minor reverse flaw	145
1880	VG, minor reverse scratch	155
1880	VF	225
1881	PCGS Proof-63, nice	475
1884	Good-, tiny obverse scratch . . .	235
1884	NGC Proof-62	395
1884	PCGS MS-63, original toning . .	775

QUARTERS

1886	ICG MS-65, a blazing white gem	\$2450
1887	PCGS Fine-12, original	290
1887	PCGS Proof-62	375
1889	VG+, slightly dark	185
1889	PCGS Proof-62	425
1890	PCGS Proof-63, brilliant	550
1891-O	ANACS VG-8	175
1891-O	PCGS Fine-15, original	295

HALF DOLLARS

1844-O	Doubled Date, NGC XF-45	\$2200
1851-O	SEGS XF-40, cleaned	135
1852	NGC VF-30, dark gray toning . .	795
1852-O	VF, nice, dark toning	395
1856-S	No Drapery, VG, nice	110
1860-S	Large S, EF, original	120
1862	EF	135
1864-S	VG+, WB-102, original	100
1867	VF+, old cleaning	100
1873	WA, PCGS MS-63, white	1950
1873-CC	WA, ANACS Good-4	100
1873-S	WA, VF+, original	200
1880	Good, old cleaning	185
1880	VG-, old cleaning	200
1880	PCGS Proof-61, cameo	460
1881	Good, dark toning	220
1883	ICG Proof-63, brilliant	650
1885	VF+, nice toning	375
1886	Good+	350
1886	VG, old cleaning	350
1887	Fine-, cleaned	440
1888	VG+, nice	240
1889	VF	275

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Challenge for the Future

As a long time reader of the Gobrecht Journal I look forward to each issue that is published by the club. I have referred to past issues of the journal for valuable information during the course of writing books, engaging in research and preparing catalogue descriptions. Taken as a whole, the Gobrecht Journal has no equal in providing valuable numismatic information on 19th century silver coinage.

At the same time, the major emphasis of the journal has been on the coins themselves, their availability at different grade levels, their die states and their absolute and relative rarity. In my opinion, a great challenge for the future would be to expand the biographies of the coins. I believe that more information should be published on how the coins affected the American way of life, how they circulated and why they were minted. Information should be included on minting procedures, on the preparation of coinage dies and on historical events that influenced the way the coins were used.

Some of this information is already available in Neil Carothers' superb study, *Fractional Money*, that was published in 1930. In recent years, I have been gathering information on what will result in a set of books covering United States gold coinage from gold dollars to double eagles. Liberty Seated coins are not represented in this project but notable work by engraver Christian Gobrecht has been included through the Coronet Head gold dies first created for the eagle in 1838, the half eagle in 1839 and the quarter eagle in 1840. In this work I have studied original correspondence, archival records and contemporary articles involving operations at the different mints that produced the coins. I can almost close my eyes and envision being at the New Orleans Mint in 1838 when all sorts of shenanigans were going on. Mint officers were fighting with each other, mint records were being falsified and there were so many problems at the mint that only Liberty Seated half dimes and dimes are produced that first year. No gold coins were struck in New Orleans in 1838 and even the famous 1838-O half dollar was not produced until 1839.

While events at the New Orleans and Carson City mints are relevant to Liberty Seated silver coinage, the fascinating activities at the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints are only relevant to gold coinage. Nevertheless, studying gold coinage on the American scene has made me realize that there is tremendous potential for someone to place Liberty Seated silver coinage into the history and technology of its time.

For any coin, its market price is temporary and its grade is only an opinion that is subject to change. Enduring forever are the characteristics of the coins themselves. The style of the date numerals, the position of the mintmark and the location of die cracks are permanent characteristics that are often delineated in the journal. Also permanent and contributing to an aura of desirability for any coin is the part that it played in the history of our nation.

Q. David Bowers
LSCC #362



Another 1854-O Briggs 3-B Quarter

by

Ray Lathrop



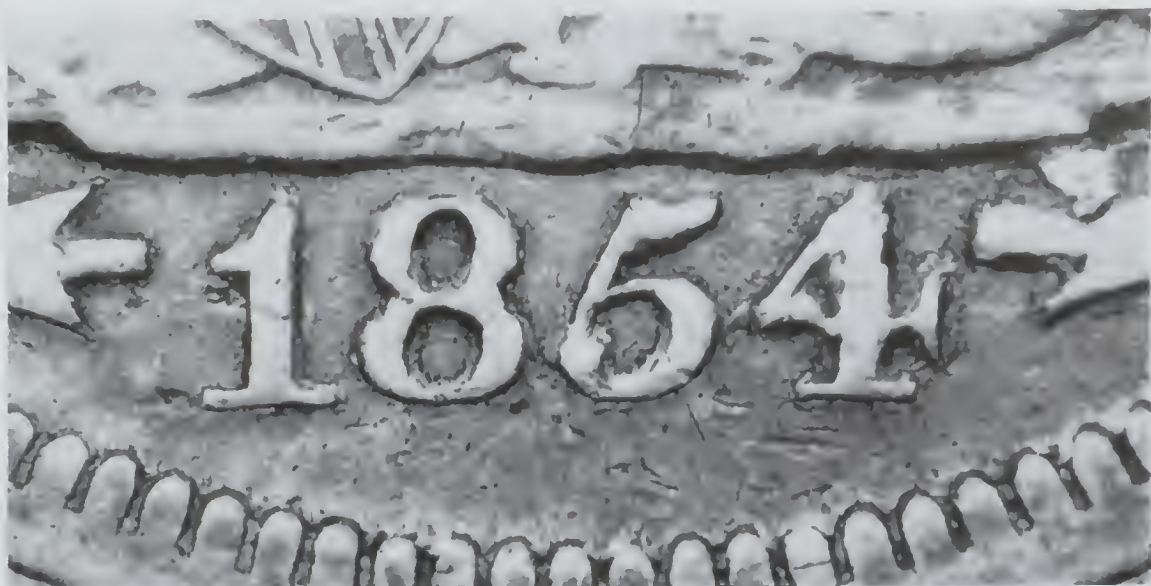
This article presents pictures of an early die state 1854-O Briggs 3-B quarter, a coin in a much earlier die state than the piece reported in Issue #76 of the journal. In this die state the top barb of the right arrowhead is separated from the shaft and it is nearly rectangular in shape. This area changes dramatically in later die states when this arrowhead looks entirely different.

There are a number of interesting features on this coin around the date. The 8 is badly shaped with several defects visible between the two loops of the digit. There is a vertical line that connects the ball of the 5 to its upper shaft. The crossbar on the 4 shows two parallel lines and there are several defects around the inner triangle of this digit. The rust damage is clearly evident on the right side of the 4 and above the right arrowhead. Rust damage is also evident around the right side stars and gets even worse near the 13th star.

This coin does appear to have a repunched date but the rust damage makes it difficult to tell for sure. The most convincing evidence for a repunched date is seen along the top of the 8 and the 5.

At first I thought that this coin showed evidence of recutting on the hair and on the shoulder by the pole. I showed the coin to a representative of ANACS and it was his opinion that this deterioration was the result of rust damage to the die.

I would like to thank Tom Mulvaney for the excellent pictures of this interesting 1854-O quarter. His pictures clearly show some of the damage caused by rust on the obverse die.



Early Die State 1854-O Briggs 3-B Quarter



Rust Damage on 9th to 13th Stars on 1854-O Briggs 3-B Quarter

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LSCC Annual Meeting

The 27th Annual Meeting of LSCC will be held in conjunction with the 109th Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association. The convention will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from August 9th to August 13th 2000. The club meeting has been scheduled for 9:00 am on Thursday August 10th in Room 106A at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. There will be a special awards ceremony at the meeting to recognize significant contributions to the club. We hope that you will take the opportunity to attend this special session conducted by the club.

Other general business of the club will also be conducted at the meeting. There will be an announcement of the results of this year's election of Officers, an announcement of the article selected as the best to appear in the journal during the past year and an opportunity for members to exchange information on Seated coins. There will be a financial report for the current year by the club Secretary-Treasurer, the setting of dues for the next club year and a report on the sale of the collective volumes of the journal.

The Editor



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Reverse Varieties of the 1878-CC Trade Dollar

by

John W. McCloskey

The 1878-CC Trade Dollar is generally recognized as being the rarest of the six Carson City Trade Dollars and it is a highly desirable coin to own in mint state. This date has a reported mintage of 97,000 pieces but many of these are believed to have been melted shortly after they were struck in 1878. Examples of this date have always been in demand and they are worth more than any of the other business strike coins in the Trade Dollar series.

Walter Breen reported three reverse varieties for this date in his encyclopedia of United States coins. These same three varieties were listed by Q. David Bowers in his encyclopedia of Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States. A recent catalogue survey of examples of this date has identified a fourth reverse for the 1878-CC Trade Dollar. I would like to take this opportunity to provide detailed descriptions of the reverse dies of this date so that these four varieties can be more easily identified by the Trade Dollar collector.

The four reverse varieties of the 1878-CC Trade Dollar can be identified by the position of the mintmark on the reverse below the word GRAINS. The position of the two Cs in the mintmark will be described in relation to the S in GRAINS, the comma following the word GRAINS and the D in DOLLAR. The location of the mintmark clearly distinguishes these dies from each other.

Reverse A. Breen #5822. Tall CC. First C low. Left C below left side of S in GRAINS. Left edge of S nearly over left edge of left C. Comma over right side of right C. Right C centered over opening in D. This variety is pictured on page 1034 of the Bowers encyclopedia. This is the same variety as Auction '80 Lot #1376 as indicated by Breen. This is the same as Auction '87 Lot #798. This is also the same as 1988 Norweb Sale Lot #1838. This is the same as 1997 Eliasberg Sale Lot #2346. This is NOT the same variety as 1977 Fairfield Sale Lot #1415. Breen simply made a mistake in giving this reference.

Reverse B. Breen #5823. Tall CC. Two Cs about even. Left C below space between NS. Left edge of S over right edge of left C. Right edge of right C below space between S and comma. Right C over upright of D. This is the variety of the chopmarked Epps coin pictured on page 51 of Issue #76 of the journal. This is the same as Auction '86 Lot #329. This is also the same as Auction '85 Lot #1820. This is the same as Auction '90 Lot #837. This is the same variety as 1977 Fairfield Sale Lot #1415. This is a correction to the Breen reference.

Reverse C. Breen #5824. Tall CC. Misplaced CC, positioned far to the right above DO. Comma over right edge of left C. Right C below space between comma and 9 in 900 FINE. This is the variety of September 1999 Long Beach Sale Lot #5279. This coin was pictured on page 39 of Issue #76 of the journal. This is the same as 1999 ANA Sale Lot #6306. This is the same variety as 1977 Fairfield Lot #1416 as indicated by Breen.

Reverse D. Unlisted by Breen. Tall CC. First C a little low. Right edge of N over left edge of left C. Left edge of S over center of left C. Comma over right edge of

right C. Right C over opening in D. This is the variety for Lot #2121 in the Minning Sale by Bowers and Merena on August 31, 1999.

Reverse D has a mintmark placement between the locations for Reverses A and B. Reverse B has the left C entirely to the left of the S and the right C entirely to the left of the comma. Reverse D has the left edge of the S over the center of the left C and the comma over the right edge of the right C. Reverse A has the left C almost entirely under the S and the comma over the right side of the right C. Very little work has been done on determining the relative rarity of the four varieties but it would appear that coins with Reverse D would be the most difficult to obtain. More extensive research on coins of this date will be needed to determine relative rarity for the known varieties.

Breen listed three varieties for the 1878-CC Trade Dollar in his encyclopedia of United States coins. His variety designations however were never intended to represent only a single die pair. The new Reverse D identified in this article is similar to Reverse A listed by Breen for this date. It is not known whether Breen never knew about this new reverse or considered it too similar to the Breen #5822 description to give it a variety designation of its own.

The picture of the 1878-CC Trade Dollar with Reverse D was provided by Q. David Bowers for presentation with this article. This picture is an illustration of the coin from the Minning Sale that was sold by Bowers and Merena Galleries on August 31, 1999.



**Mint State 1878-CC Trade Dollar
with Reverse D**



Letters to the Editor

I would like to invite members of LSCC to exhibit part of their collections at the ANA Convention in Philadelphia this summer. The convention dates are August 9-13, 2000. As exhibit chairman I would like to see club members display their collections of Liberty Seated coinage for the collecting public. Your exhibit is needed to make the ANA Convention in Philadelphia the best ever.

Gerald L. Kochel
LSCC #1119

I believe that some of the statements made by Chris Pilliod in Issue #77 of the journal need clarification from a technical point of view. In his article on the quality of coinage dies, Pilliod defines corrosion to be a "reaction between a base metal and oxygen to form an oxide." He goes on to say that "all metals react with oxygen, some more vigorously than others. But not all metals corrode." He then says that "aluminum and titanium are good examples of metals that react strongly with oxygen but do not corrode." My understanding of corrosion is: A wearing away of a material by chemical action or the destruction or deterioration of a material because of a reaction with its environment.

Gold and platinum do not react with oxygen in the air and are basically inert to our atmosphere. Therefore, they do not corrode from being exposed to air. In contrast, aluminum and iron react to moist air to form oxides which fit the definition of corrosion given in Pilliod's article. It is true that a layer of aluminum oxide helps to protect the surface under the oxide film from further oxidation, but if the oxide film is physically removed, the aluminum will continue to corrode from oxygen and exposure to moisture. In the case of iron, the iron oxide is more likely to flake off by itself exposing more of the iron to oxygen. In both cases corrosion occurs, but at a much slower rate for the aluminum.

Weimar White
LSCC #660

I read with great interest the list of six chopmarked 1878-CC Trade Dollars that was provided by James Sneddon in Issue #77 of the journal. I would like to report that I own three chopmarked coins of this date, two of which are on his list. I own the Epps specimen that was pictured in Issue #76 of the journal. I purchased this coin from Mr. Epps in a private sale in March 1984. I also own the Cole specimen. I purchased this piece from the Bowers and Merena Auction in January 1986. This coin has a single chopmark on the obverse and it is a beautiful MS-63 coin. My third coin came from the Walls Sale in 1997. This coin was one of the pieces in Lot #22 of that sale which was a complete set of Trade Dollars. I purchased this lot because I was interested in the 1875, 1876 and 1878-CC coins in the set.

John Dreyer
LSCC #896

I am trying to determine the relative rarity for the two Breen varieties of the 1859-S Seated dollar. Breen #5461 is defined as a Normal Date while Breen #5462 is described as a Repunched Date. Examples of Breen #5462 can easily be identified by recutting at the bottom of the 1 and 8 in the date. The recutting is clearly visible on the 1 and it should be visible even on low grade specimens. I would like to ask that you identify the variety of your coins and report your findings to me. I will report the results of this survey in a future issue of the journal. I can be reached as follows: Dennis Garstang, 1028 S. Bishop Ave, PMB #204, Rolla, Missouri 65401-4416.

Dennis Garstang
LSCC #481

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I'M A COLLECTOR ☐ DEALER ☐ COLLECTOR/DEALER ☐

YOU MAY ☐ MAY NOT ☐

SEND MY NAME AND ADDRESS TO OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.

I COLLECT BY DATE SEATED HALF DIMES ☐ DIMES ☐

QUARTERS ☐ HALF DOLLARS ☐ DOLLARS ☐ ALL SEATED ☐

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Membership Fee - \$15.00 for first year dues and initiation fee.

Fill in the above and mail with \$15.00 to:

Scott Grieb • P.O. Box 776
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60039-0776



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We ask that you notify us as soon as possible when you move or change your mailing address. It seems that we always have one or two *Journals* returned to us for improper address when a member has moved to a new location. In such cases, we must wait for the member to contact us and provide us with the new address. To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving the Journal and to assist us in keeping our mailing list current, ***we ask that you inform us as soon as possible of any change of address.***

**Reverse Picture of
1873-CC No Arrows Dime**



Your comments on any of the articles, ads, or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

John McCloskey
Editor, Gobrecht Journal
5718 King Arthur Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45429